

# Frequently Asked Questions About Michigan Merit Examination Score Reports

June 2011

- 1. What is the Michigan Merit Examination?** - The Michigan Merit Examination (MME) is the state high school assessment administered to grade 11 and eligible grade 12 students annually. The MME is administered during the month of March. The MME is comprised of the ACT Plus Writing® college entrance exam, portions of the WorkKeys® job skills assessment, and Michigan components developed to assess Michigan high school content standards. The MME replaced the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) high school assessment in spring 2007. The MME assesses students in reading, writing, mathematics, science and social studies. The test items are aligned to Michigan high school content standards.
- 2. Are schools required to administer the MME?** - Yes. Federal and state laws require public schools to assess certain grade levels. The MME assesses juniors and eligible seniors while the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) assesses grades 3-9. These assessments provide a way to measure all Michigan students in the same subjects, at the same time. The tests provide valuable information to parents on their student's academic performance.
- 3. My son took the ACT separately from the MME. Can he use that ACT score as part of his MME score?** - No. The National ACT Plus Writing® college entrance exam taken independently of the MME is not the same test as the ACT Plus Writing® offered on Day 1 of the MME. The scores cannot be swapped. It is the actual items from the ACT Plus Writing test administered on Day 1 of the MME, not the ACT scores, that contribute to the MME subject area scores. The MME must be taken in its entirety, which includes the ACT Plus Writing®.
- 4. Is the ACT taken as a part of the MME accepted by colleges as a valid ACT entrance exam?** - Yes, if the test was taken under college reportable conditions, meaning Standard Testing or with ACT-Approved Accommodations. If you are uncertain about the conditions under which the student's test was taken, please contact your high school's Guidance Office.
- 5. What is WorkKeys®?** - WorkKeys® is a national assessment that measures job readiness skills in the areas of Reading for Information, Applied Mathematics, and Locating Information. WorkKeys® test results compare the skill levels required by jobs in the WorkKeys® job profiles database to those of individuals who have taken the WorkKeys® assessments.

In the spring of 2011, Day 2 of the MME included three WorkKeys® tests: Reading for Information, Applied Mathematics, and Locating Information. Depending on the scores earned, students who took the English (non-translated) versions of WorkKeys® tests may have qualified for the National Career Readiness Certificate. WorkKeys® scores were reported directly by ACT through the student's high school. The WorkKeys® certificate level

(Bronze, Silver, Gold, or Platinum) for which the student may be eligible is reported on the Individual Student and Parent Reports.

More information on WorkKeys® and the National Career Readiness Certificate can be found at [www.act.org/workkeys](http://www.act.org/workkeys).

- 6. Can the state average scores from the ACT portion of the MME be compared to the average scores from the annual ACT High School Profile of each year's graduating class?** – No. The state average scores for the ACT portion of the MME are the averages taken from only the grade 11 college reportable ACT scores in the current administration of the MME. The average scores shown in the annual ACT High School Profile are the averages of the most recent college reportable ACT scores for high school seniors who took the test as sophomores, juniors, or seniors.
- 7. How do MME scores impact Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)?** - The process for determining the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) status under the federal *No Child Left Behind Act* for a school or district is complex and involves data from many sources. Results from the MME are simply one part of the total calculation. AYP status is reported separately by the state when all elements of the process have been assembled. For more information about AYP, please go to [www.michigan.gov/ayp](http://www.michigan.gov/ayp).
- 8. Where can I find more information regarding MME results on the web?** - Go to [www.michigan.gov/mme](http://www.michigan.gov/mme), then select "Assessment Results." You will find information on state, district, and school results, including a Guide to Reports, a downloadable school and district summary file, and other information to aid your understanding of the MME results.